

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 MC-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 SS-15 NSC-05

SP-02 TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00 ACDA-05 AID-05 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-03 /066 W

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R 031340Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1743

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1305

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LY EG SY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN LOANS TO EGYPT AND SYRIA, MORE PREDICTIONS
OF A SADAT-QADHAFI-AL-ASAD MEETING

REF: TRIPOLI 1280, 1293

1. BASHIR RABTI, OF EGYPT-LIBYA-SYRIA "FEDERAL COUNCIL", HAS BEEN SPEAKING TO LIBYAN PRESS ABOUT HIS MEETINGS LAST WEEK WITH SADAT, AND MEETING HE HAD DEC. 2 WITH QADHAFI. RABTI SAID MONEY FOR FEDERAL ECONOMIC PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY AGREED ON BY THREE PRESIDENTS HAD ACTUALLY BEEN PUT UP BY LIBYA, IN FORM OF INTEREST-FREE LOANS COVERING EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN SHARES. THESE PROJECTS INCLUDE "ARAB COMPANIES AND CONTRACTING FIRMS, A SEA LINK BETWEEN DAMASCUS (SIC), ALEXANDRIA, BENGHAZI, AND TRIPOLI, AND AN ARMS FACTORY".
2. RABTI SAID AGAIN HE THOUGHT QADHAFI, SADAT, AND AL-ASAD WOULD MEET SOON WITHIN FEDERAL CONTEXT; SADAT HAD AGREED TO MEETING, HE SAID, AND IT ONLY REMAINED FOR AL-ASAD TO DO SO. RABTI IS TO SEE AL-ASAD IN DAMASCUS LATER THIS WEEK,
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HE SAYS.

3. FEDERAL PROJECTS RABTI IS TALKING ABOUT ARE PROBABLY THOSE WHICH SADAT, QADHAFI, AND AL-ASAD AGREED TO LAST FEBRUARY, AT TIME OF QADHAFI'S VISIT TO CAIRO AND HIS MELODRAMATIC RECONCILIATION WITH SADAT IN MECCA. QADHAFI SEEMS TO WANT TO TURN THE CLOCK BACK TO THOSE HAPPIER (FOR QADHAFI) DAYS, WHEN AL-AHRAM WAS PREDICTING THAT UNITY TALKS BETWEEN LIBYA AND EGYPT WOULD RESUME, AND TO THIS END, IF RABTI IS TO BE BELIEVED, HE HAS FINALLY PUT UP THE MONEY HE PROMISED EGYPT AND SYRIA THEN. WE WONDER WHAT HE EXPECTS TO GET IN RETURN. WE NOTE THAT RCC MEMBER NAJM, NOT ONE OF COUNCIL'S BRIGHTEST LIGHTS BUT PRESUMJHLY SOMEONE WITH QADHAFI'S NONF DENCE, WENT TO CAIRO NOV. 30.
STEIN

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